

Memorandum

To: EQUITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS **EAC Meeting:** March 21, 2023

From: EQUITY ADVISORY TEAM

Reference Number: 5, Information

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Subject: Discussion of Equity Advisory Committee Priority Focus Area Survey Results

Summary:

To help identify priority focus areas for calendar year 2023 Equity Advisory Committee (Committee) meetings, a survey of Committee members was conducted in January 2023. C. Sequoia Erasmus, Associate Deputy Director of Equity and Engagement at the California Transportation Commission (Commission) will provide an update on the results of the survey.

Six key areas from the initial scope were identified by members as priority focus areas for the Committee. These include:

1. Improve equitable outcomes in State transportation planning guidelines
2. Improve equitable outcomes in State transportation funding guidelines
3. Incorporate meaningful community engagement practices into transportation plans, projects, and policies
4. Improve equitable outcomes in State transportation funding program guidelines
5. Quantitative and qualitative metrics for evaluating equity benefits and outcomes
6. Assess equitable outcomes in projects

Results from the survey will help guide current and future discussions to determine priority focus areas, educational workshop themes, and other topics for calendar year 2023 Committee focus.

Background:

The use of a survey to incorporate member input is a useful tool to track and save member ideas, and staff intends to use surveys in the future as new members are approved, priority focus areas change, or new focus areas emerge.

In addition to asking Committee members to prioritize areas within the approved Committee [scope](#), the survey asked Committee members to identify areas of importance not already covered by the scope approved in June 2022 by the Commission, the California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA), and the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). Members were also asked to share topic areas they would like to learn more about within the realm of transportation planning, funding, policy, and programming.

Feedback received during the meeting will be incorporated into future Committee meeting agendas, educational presentations and learning materials, and research responsibilities among Committee members.

Development of the Calendar Year 2023 Committee member priority focus areas survey

In January 2023, a survey was utilized to poll Committee members to guide the development of priority focus areas for calendar year 2023 Committee work. The survey consisted of 12 questions which covered the following:

- Name and contact information
- Whether or not the member will seek compensation for participation
- Length of time the member is able to serve (one or two years)
- Whether or not the member is interested in serving as Chair or Co-Chair
- Top 5 priority focus areas for calendar year 2023 (based on scope adopted by the Commission, CalSTA and Caltrans)
- Other areas of focus the member would like the Committee to address
- Areas related to transportation planning, programming, or funding the member would like to learn more about
- Other questions or concerns regarding the Committee

More than 90 percent of the Committee participated in the survey.

Survey Results

Survey questions one through five requested members' contact information and are therefore not included in this summary. The following summarizes responses to questions six through twelve of the survey, which asked about compensation and Committee focus areas.

Question 6 asked if members will seek compensation for participation in the Committee. Two members responded no, and 12 members responded yes.

Compensation through a one-year grant funded by the Resource Legacy Fund, and distributed by the California Transportation Foundation, will be available to Committee members. Using this grant, Committee members will receive a \$100 per diem for each day spent on Committee work. This includes Committee-related duties like attending meetings (in person and virtually), providing updates at Commission meetings, supporting agency goals such as updating program or funding guidelines, or reviewing funding program applications. Committee members will also be reimbursed for actual travel cost incurred consistent with rules and regulations set forth by the California Department of Human Resources. Compensation beyond year one has been included in the proposed governor's budget but must be approved before members can be compensated beyond the one-year timeframe of the Resource Legacy Fund grant.

Question 7 asked members to consider the length of time they are able to serve on the Committee. Eleven members responded they are willing to serve for two years, and three members responded they are willing to serve for one year. These time frames will ensure that the Committee has staggered membership of one- or two-year terms.

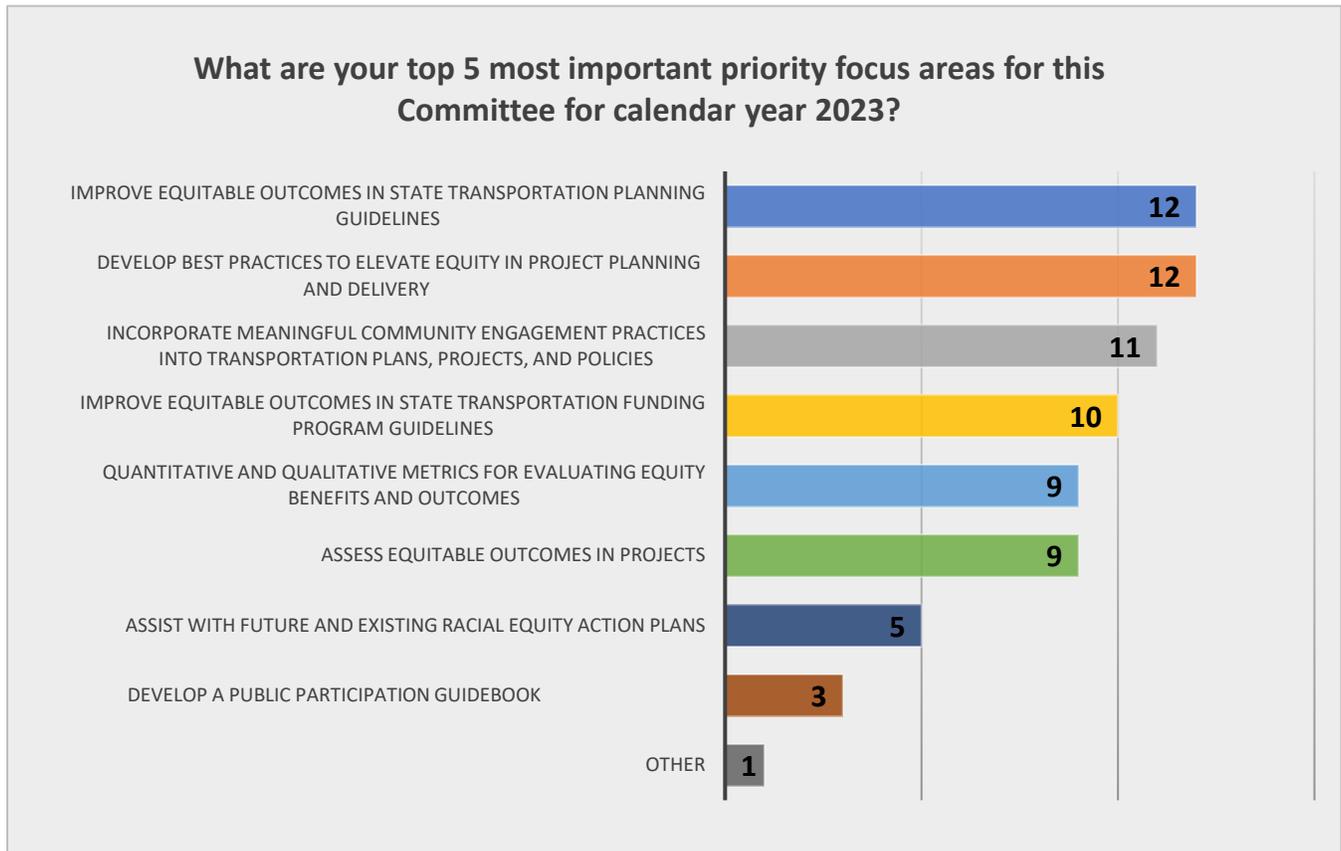
Question 8 asked members to determine interest in serving as Chair or Co-Chair of the Committee. Four members answered yes, two members answered no, and eight members answered maybe.

At the second meeting of the 15-member Committee, the interagency team will work with members to determine the best governance and voting structure for the Committee, and to vote for the future Chair or Co-Chairs. Those who are voted in as Chair or Co-Chair(s) will lead future meetings, develop meeting agendas with interagency staff, and may perform other related responsibilities.

Question 9 asked members to list their top five priority focus areas based on the approved scope. Due to tied responses, six areas are highlighted as priorities by members. These include:

7. Improve equitable outcomes in State transportation planning guidelines (12 responses)
8. Improve equitable outcomes in State transportation funding guidelines (12 responses)
9. Incorporate meaningful community engagement practices into transportation plans, projects, and policies (11 responses)
10. Improve equitable outcomes in State transportation funding program guidelines (10 responses)
11. Quantitative and qualitative metrics for evaluating equity benefits and outcomes (9 responses)
12. Assess equitable outcomes in projects (9 responses)

The full response to this question is included in the chart below.



Interagency staff will work with Committee members to identify existing and future opportunities where these priorities can be implemented. Additionally, staff intends to collaborate with Committee members to identify additional mechanisms for achieving these goals.

Question 10 asked members to identify other areas of focus they would like the Committee to address. Question 11 asked members to identify areas related to transportation planning, funding, or programming that they would like to learn more about. The responses are summarized below. Interagency staff will work with Committee members to determine the most appropriate course of action for these additional areas of focus and to identify strategies for developing future educational presentations and opportunities, where needed.

Question 10: Are there other areas of focus that you would like this Committee to address?

1. Discussing additional ways to use property holding to benefit under-represented communities. For example, uses of right-of-way spaces.

2. Affordable Housing projects involved with and near Public Transportation Stations, Accessibility issues around Wheelchair and Mobility devices on public streets and walkways
3. Infrastructure and its weight on mobility and access as climate change is upon us
4. How to meaningfully compensate CBOs for their time on projects. Ways to help streamline projects
5. Tribal resources and projects
6. I am hopeful that our equity umbrella extends to all groups, including seniors and special needs populations
7. Elevate transportation needs of people with disabilities to ensure equivalent focus to that of other marginalized groups
8. Support committee members in their efforts to highlight inequities in transportation.
9. Disaster relief in transportation
10. I would like to see where we can close gaps in addressing federal directives and state directives relating to equity

Question 11: Are there any areas related to transportation planning, programming, or funding that you would like to learn more about?

1. Different transportation funding sources and mechanisms, and how to go about making it more equitable/community-led
2. At this time, everything is of interest, and I look forward to learning as much as possible in order to provide the most value to all stakeholders
3. Budgeting
4. Interplay between the three state agencies
5. Federal funding, how all the plans work collaboratively
6. Transportation planning around broadband deployment
7. The interplay between federal and state dollars and how we can best leverage both.
8. Low Income Affordable Housing projects involved with Transit Oriented locations and projects
9. How funding is sought and disbursed at the local, state, and federal level. Why programming isn't more coordinated and why projects collectively do not reduce our carbon footprint
10. Being able to learn about all transportation planning/programming/funding in one place.
11. My main interest is how funding is distributed and or allocated
12. How the state prioritizes funding and planning with so many needs
13. Tribal projects
14. I would like to learn more about how federal planning and funding affects state objectives regarding transportation